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DATE: NOV 2001

CIA CPAS NED 89-288JX



Director of Central Intelligence

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY

Wednesday, 13 December 1989



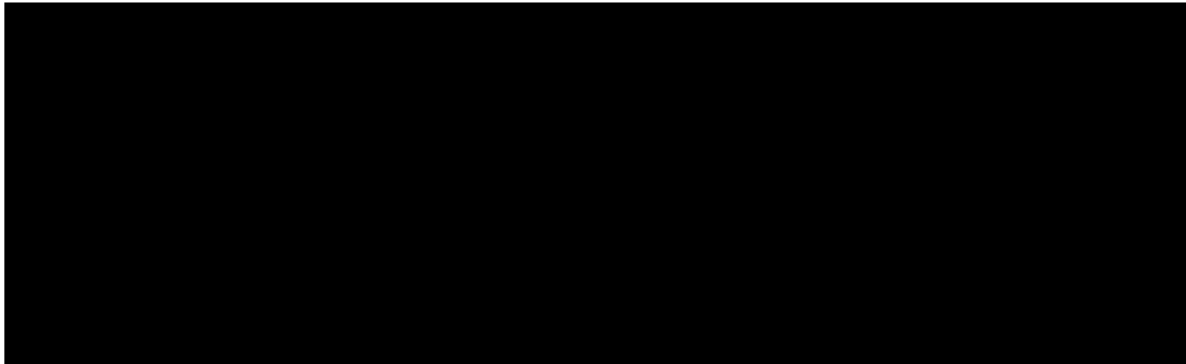
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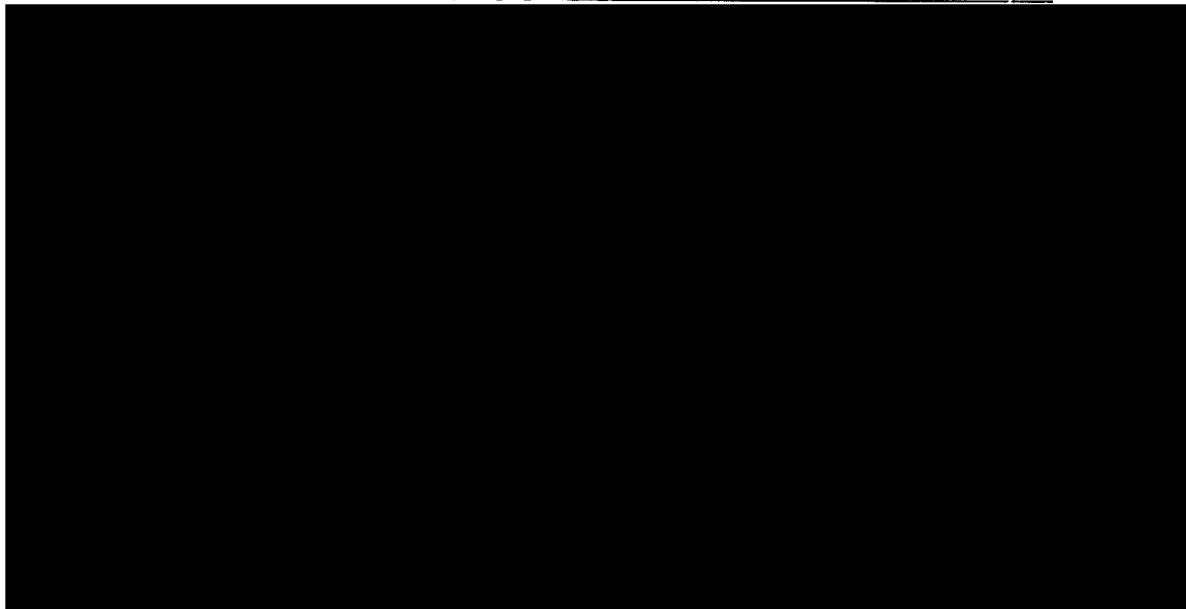
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Notes

El Salvador: Rebels Planning New Round of Attacks

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CENTRAL
AMERICA:

Agreement Keeps Peace Process Alive

Each Central American President emerged from the summit in Costa Rica with something, even though the issues of Nicaraguan aid to the Salvadoran rebels and Contra demobilization still plague the peace process. [REDACTED]

The accord—the third this year—met many of Salvadoran President Cristiani's aims. Although the communique does not call specifically for Nicaragua to end its aid to the Salvadoran rebels, it supports Cristiani's proposal for a cease-fire and a dialogue, condemns the rebels' violence, and calls on them to demobilize. Honduran President Azcona briefly left the talks late Monday but returned when Nicaraguan President Ortega agreed to establish a bilateral commission to find an extrajudicial solution to Managua's World Court case against Tegucigalpa by 11 June. [REDACTED]

The other Presidents endorsed Ortega's demands that US humanitarian aid to the Contras be turned over immediately to the UN-OAS commission responsible for demobilizing them. The 5 December deadline for demobilization set in the Tela accord was not extended. The five Presidents called on the Contras to stop all actions against the Nicaraguan election on 25 February; Managua succeeded in deflecting criticism of its harassment of opposition candidates. It reiterated its offer to allow those Contras who return to Nicaragua by 5 February to register to vote. The Contras, however, have reiterated their refusal to demobilize until Nicaragua lives up to earlier promises to issue a total amnesty for political prisoners and other guarantees. [REDACTED]

Comment: Although the peace process is alive and the Presidents plan to meet again in Managua before the end of March, there was no progress on Contra demobilization and Nicaraguan aid to the FMLN. Ortega probably believes he gained as much as possible, in view of the preoccupation at the summit with Managua's role in the Salvadoran conflict. Cristiani probably believes regional backing for his cease-fire proposals and condemnations of the FMLN will put pressure on the rebels to renew a dialogue. Azcona succeeded in postponing the World Court case for the rest of his tenure, but Nicaragua will pursue the litigation if not satisfied with progress on demobilization after six months. [REDACTED]

The Contras may agree to reconvene talks with the Sandinistas but will continue to avoid demobilizing before the election in Nicaragua. Contra foot-dragging and the likely reluctance of the UN and OAS to take a direct role in any involuntary demobilization will make progress slow. [REDACTED]

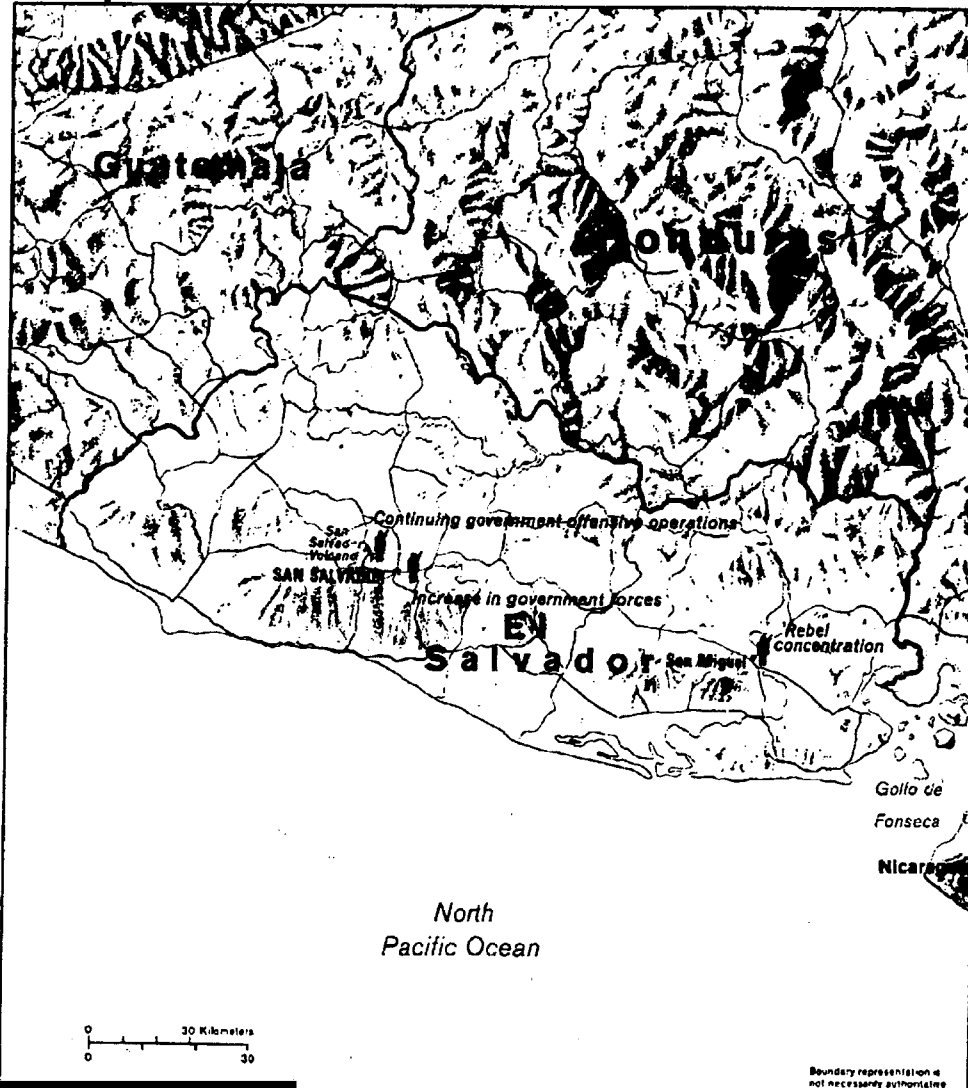
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Military Situation, December 1989



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EL SALVADOR: Rebels Planning New Round of Attacks

The FMLN, convinced it has made at least psychological gains against the Cristiani government, reportedly intends to make further attacks in San Salvador and elsewhere in the country.

[REDACTED]

The military has added three 400-man counterinsurgency battalions to its forces in San Salvador and is continuing offensive operations against insurgents northeast of the city and near San Salvador Volcano. [REDACTED] large numbers of rebels still in the San Miguel area may be planning another attack on that city. [REDACTED]

Comment: Despite its more aggressive counterinsurgency actions near the capital, the Army cannot stop small rebel reinfiltrations and probably will try to use its forces to eliminate large concentrations of guerrillas on the periphery of San Salvador. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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